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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/502,416

07/23/2004

Daniel Greub

0115-044591

3939

28289

7590

03/10/2006

THE WEBB LAW FIRM, P.C.
700 KOPPERS BUILDING
436 SEVENTH AVENUE
PITTSBURGH, PA 15219

EXAMINER

CHIAM, DINH D

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2883

DATE MAILED: 03/10/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/502,416

Applicant(s)

GREUB, DANIEL

Examiner

Erin D. Chiem

Art Unit

2883

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 January 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 17,27-32 and 34-44 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 17,27-32 and 34-44 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 21 February 2006 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

This office action is in response to amendment filed on January 6, 2006. Amended drawings filed on January 6, 2006 is received and accepted by the examiner. Currently, claims 1-16 are canceled, and claims 17-44 are pending.

Election/Restrictions

This application contains claim 18-26, and 32 are drawn to an invention nonelected with traverse in Paper No. September 6, 2005. A complete reply to the final rejection must include cancellation of nonelected claims or other appropriate action (37 CFR 1.144) See MPEP § 821.01.

With further consideration of the pending set of claims, claims 28-35 and 38-44 are withdrawn from consideration because applicant elected Species A, shown in Figs. 1-3, drawn to the rotation prevention means of a pin. Claims 28 and 38 recite, "the means for securing comprise a securing plate retained in a rotationally secure manner between the flange parts and engaging in the slit of the slit sleeve by way of a protuberance; claim 28 is drawn to Species C shown in Fig. 7.

Claim Objections

Claims 1 and 36 are objected to because of the following informalities: the recitation --*an interior for accommodating and securing a longitudinally slit, cylindrical sleeve*. -- perhaps

Art Unit: 2883

applicant intended to recite *—a longitudinally split cylindrical sleeve—*. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 17 and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Bull et al.

(US 6,612,750 B1 hereinafter “Bull”).

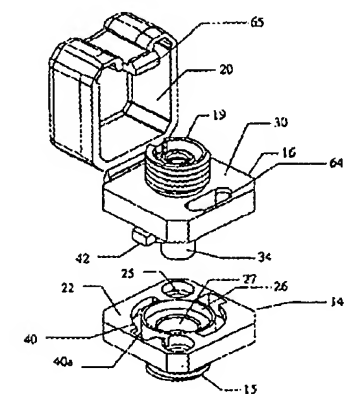


Figure 3

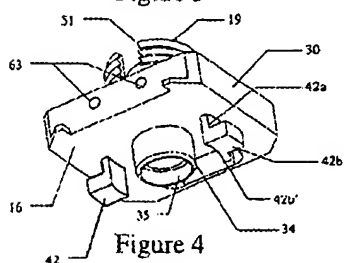


Figure 4

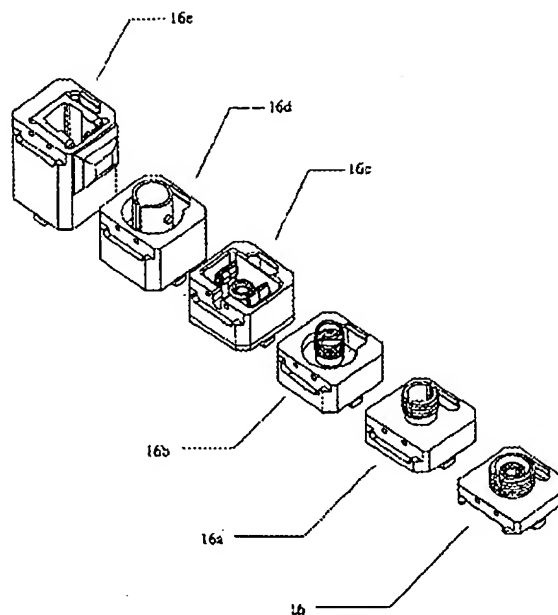


Figure 9

Claim 27, Bull discloses a sleeve mount comprising an interior for accommodating and securing a longitudinally slit (see Fig. 9 '16d'), cylindrical sleeve, the sleeve mount provided in a coupling of an optical plug-in connection for accommodating ferrules of two optical plug-in connectors introduced from opposite directions, the sleeve mount having means for securing the sleeve against rotation about a sleeve axis (see Fig. 8, '38'), wherein the means for securing are arranged in a central part of the sleeve mount and are restricted to the central part of the sleeve mount.

Regarding claim 28, wherein the sleeve mount is made up of two separate accommodating parts, and the means for securing are arranged and retained between the accommodating parts; wherein the sleeve mount is made up of two separate accommodating parts, and the means for securing are arranged and retained between the accommodating parts (See Fig. 4 above).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 36-37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bull in view of Moriya et al. (JP-59-12576-A hereinafter "Moriya").

Regarding claims 28 and 36, Bull discloses a sleeve mount comprising an interior for accommodating and securing a longitudinally slit (see Fig. 9 '16d'), cylindrical sleeve, the sleeve mount provided in a coupling of an optical plug-in connection for accommodating ferrules of two optical plug-in connectors introduced from opposite directions, the sleeve mount having means for securing the sleeve against rotation about a sleeve axis (see Fig. 8, '38'), wherein the means for securing are arranged in a central part of the sleeve mount and are restricted to the central part of the sleeve mount; wherein the sleeve mount is made up of two separate accommodating parts, and the means for securing are arranged and retained between the accommodating parts; wherein the sleeve mount is made up of two separate accommodating parts, and the means for securing are arranged and retained between the accommodating parts (See Fig. 4 above). Furthermore, Bull disclose the two mutually opposite ends of the accommodating parts having flange parts butting against one another when the accommodating parts are put together.

However, Bull does not disclose means for securing are designed to engage in a slit of the longitudinally slit, cylindrical sleeve.

Moriya discloses a sleeve mount (1) having a longitudinally slit cylindrical sleeve (2) disposed within the sleeve mount wherein the means for preventing rotation of the sleeve (2) is designed to engage in a slit of the longitudinally slit cylindrical sleeve (11, 12, 13).

Since Bull and Moriya are both from the same field of endeavor, the purpose disclosed by Moriya would have been recognized in the pertinent art of Bull.

It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to provide bore holes such as the ones shown in Fig. 4 element 63 of

Art Unit: 2883

Bull's disclosure and insert the pins through the bore holes in engagement with the slit of the sleeve. **The motivation** for designing a rotational prevention means which engages the slit of the split sleeve is to reduce manufacturing cost by using the same element (sleeve for alignment purpose and locking purpose) for multi-purposes.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 17, 27-32, and 34-35 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Art Unit: 2883

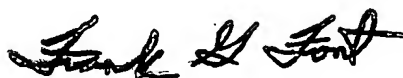
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Erin D. Chiem whose telephone number is (571) 272-3102. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday 9AM - 5PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Frank G. Font can be reached on (571) 272-2415. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Erin D Chiem
Examiner
Art Unit 2883



Frank G. Font
Supervisory Primary Examiner
Technology Center 2800